

Parbold Parish Council

Clerk: Beth Joule
Strawberry Cottage, Bispham Green, Nr Ormskirk, Lancashire L40 3SZ
Tel: 07500 557347
e-mail: clerk@parbold-pc.gov.uk

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Friday 7th March 2025 in Parbold Village Hall, The Common, WN8 7DN

Present: Cllr Arnold (Chairman), Cllr Gill (Vice Chairman), Cllr Blake, Cllr Bailey, Cllr Long and Cllr Schaffel.

5 members of the public in attendance.

1. To record apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Butts and Cllr Carruthers.

2. To receive declarations of interest

None declared.

3. Public Participation:

The meeting will be adjourned for an appropriate time (four minutes maximum per speech) for members of the public to raise matters of concern or interest as notified to the Chairman.

A PCA representative requested that yellow lines be repainted at two areas of the village where the road has been resurfaced as a matter of urgency. Vehicles have been parking in these areas – along Mill Lane toward Station Road and on the Common near the shops – and this has been causing issues. Cllr Blake confirmed that this has already been reported to LCC Highways. Cllr Bailey will follow this up at a meeting at LCC next week if it is not remedied.

The representative also requested that the area behind the village hall be treated with weedkiller as it is starting to grow grass and weeds.

The representative asked whether the Council have any plans to celebrate VE day this May. The Chairman confirmed that there were no plans as yet. The

representative suggested a drop in event at the village hall, where residents could come in to reflect, chat and remember the fallen of Parbold. Refreshments could be provided, and a grant from the Parish Council would help to offset the cost.

The matter of low water pressure on the Greenfield Avenue and Fairhurst Drive area was raised again by a member of the public. Borough Councillor Jukes explained that she has reported this to United Utilities and the water was cloudy. It was stated that although the water pipes are constructed of asbestos cement this causes no issues with the water supply; this has apparently been confirmed by the World Health Organisation. Cllr Jukes urges residents to complain to United Utilities if they continue to experience issues with their water supply, and escalate to OFWAT if necessary.

Two residents told Members of the problems that they are having with vehicles blocking the service road to the left of The Windmill public house on Mill Lane. A wooden fence has been constructed to separate the rear car park of the Windmill with the private service road to the rear of properties on Mill Lane and to several houses behind. However, when vehicles park on the service road it blocks access to and from these houses and where before egress could be gained across the car park there is now no alternative route. This presents a serious risk if emergency vehicles cannot access the houses due to the service road being blocked by vehicles, especially when a vehicle is left there overnight. Cllr Jukes will contact the local Police Licensing Dept with these concerns.

Cllr Jukes stated that she had attended the drop in event at Ormskirk Civic Hall, organised by LCC Flooding dept. She felt it was a positive meeting and will be updating the village Facebook page shortly.

4. To ratify as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held 7th February 2025.

The Minutes were accepted as a correct record of the meeting and duly signed by the Chairman.

5. To ratify accounts and authorise payment of accounts presented or already paid

310125	HMRC tax/NI quarterly payment inc. pay award	D/D	£952.01
030225	Office supplies – ink cartridges	BACS	£19.50
120225	Boiler Care – village hall	D/D	£19.25
150225	Vision Link	D/D	£24.00

150225	O2 CCTV	D/D	£28.07
250225	Fire Equipment Services – village hall service	BACS	£275.32
280225	B Joule – salary	S/O	£920.48
280225	Bank charges	D/D	£6.00
280225	Midstream – Chapel meadow clearing	BACS	£468.00
050325	Argus – village hall alarm testing	BACS	£31.20
040325	P. Scott village hall gutter cleaning	BACS	£90.00

6. To note Planning and Planning Applications

None forward

7. Village issues

- **To discuss matters arising from the flooding drop in event being held on Thursday 6th March**

Cllr Arnold and Cllr Bailey gave an overview of the aforementioned drop in event for flooding affected residents. Unfortunately United Utilities could not be present at the last moment but there were officers from LCC Flood Risk dept, Environment Agency and WLBC who were happy to discuss recent flooding issues. Lack of funding appears to be a blocker to long term resolutions but some work has been undertaken to relieve immediate issues. Willow trees have been removed from the river Douglas and residents with riparian ownership have been advised to clear their banks wherever possible. Also gutters and culverts have been cleared around the village to relieve problems with excess surface water.

- **To further discuss the development project proposed by the Parbold Community Association (PCA)**

Cllr Schaffel produced a proposal for the review and remodelling of the village hall in order to make it more fit for today's purposes, which have evolved since the hall was first built. The PCA have produced a list of what they consider to be essential and desirable improvements and it was resolved to set up a meeting with the PCA and Councillors to further explore these ideas before committing to the cost of a consultant.

- **To discuss concerns raised regarding the removal of trees at the Convent development site**

Cllr Arnold had visited the site to investigate the situation regarding trees along the edge of the development, as concern had been raised to the Parish Council about their removal. The trees were inspected by the Parish Councillor and it was clear that they were rotting. The developer stated that they are reluctant to cut them down as this incurs extra costs. As WLBC are unable to visit prior to the imminent nesting season this will now need to be done in September and any liability in the meantime will be with the Borough Council.

- **To consider whether to enter the 2025 Best Kept Village competition**

It was resolved to enter the Best Kept Village competition again this year. There was a marked improvement last year in the amount of litter and weeds around the village and this will be encouraged again, in order to showcase the village at its best. Judging will begin in June.

8. Alder Lane matters

- **To receive an update from the Parbold Village show committee**

Work on the show is proceeding at pace, according to the committee. The preservation of the ground is still key, particularly around the entrance and although it may be logistically challenging the committee believes that it can be done. There was a request to reconsider the use of the cabins as toilets for show goers and it was resolved to agree in principle, with caveats that can be managed nearer the time. Thanks were expressed to County Councillor Bailey who organised an LCC grant of £250.00 toward the show expenses.

9. To consider the Clerk's annual appraisal report and recommendations

It was resolved to accept the recommendations of the Clerk's annual appraisal, and agree to the progression to the next NALC spinal column point in April.

10. To review the following policies:

- **draft Co Option policy document.**

It was resolved to ratify the draft Co Option policy document and to follow this process to declare two vacancies for Parish Councillors. This is due to the absence of two Councillors for a consecutive period of six months without accepted apologies.

- **draft Attendance policy**

It was resolved to ratify this policy.

- **Memorial policy**

This document was reviewed by Members and it was resolved to accept this policy without amendments.

11. To agree the appointment of an Internal Auditor

It was resolved to appoint Mrs. Sandra Jones as Internal Auditor for the upcoming audit, should she be available.

12. Clerk's Report

The report was noted by Members.

13. Councillors' agenda items for future meetings

Cllr Blake has been contacted by a resident who is concerned about the lack of visibility splay when exiting Brookfield onto the A5209 Alder Lane. Vehicles can appear quickly from over the canal bridge which causes alarm to the resident when turning out of Brookfield.

Cllr Bailey raised the issue of the WLBC managed CCTV camera in Parbold being turned off and asked that the idea of the Parish Council taking over the management be explored.

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it is resolved that, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and the press, leave the meeting during the consideration of the remaining items on the agenda, if any.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 2100hrs.

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Chairman

7th March 2025

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